

REMARKS

The following remarks are submitted as a full and complete response to the outstanding Action. Prior to this Amendment, claims 1-22 of pending, of which claims 12-18 have been withdrawn from further consideration. By this Amendment, claims 1, 8 and 21 have been amended to further set forth the claimed subject matter of the application. Additionally, claim 22 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, and claim 23 has been added. No new matter is introduced. Accordingly, claims 1-11, 19-21 and 23 are submitted for consideration.

Claim Objection

Claims 1 and 8 have been objected to due to certain informalities.

Claims 1 and 8 have been amended to correct the informalities by replacing the term "form" to "formed" as suggested by the outstanding Action.

Section 102 Rejection

Claim 21 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Fudanuki et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,054,872, hereinafter "*Fudanuki*").

In *Fudanuki*, there are fixed power supply wirings (VDD, VSS) that extend over cells in a first metal wiring layer above a pattern layer in which a channel-less type of standard and basic cells of gate array are arranged.

By contrast, the present invention as now set forth in claim 21 specifically requires that there is no fixed supply wiring extending to fundamental cells in a metal wiring layer.

In other words, there is no arranged supply wiring for commonly connecting basic cells in the first metal wiring layer above the pattern layer in which the basic cells are arranged.

Moreover, in **Fudanuki**, signal wirings for connecting cells must also be wired in a second metal wiring layer that is above the first metal wiring layer in which a band-patterned fixed power supply wiring is arranged, thereby lowering the degree of freedom to connect the signal wirings. On the other hand, in the present invention, signal wirings can be wired freely in the first metal wiring layer that is above the pattern layer, thereby shortening the wiring length of the signal wirings.

Section 103 Rejection

Claims 1-11, 19, 20 and 22 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over figure 13 of acknowledged prior art (APA) in view of **Fudanuki**.

First, referring to claim 22, it has been cancelled so the rejection thereto is now moot.

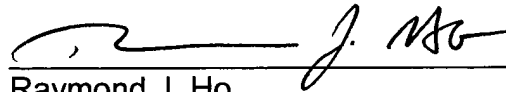
As to claims 1-11, 19 and 20, **APA** also lacks the above-discussed deficiencies in **Fudanuki** regarding, e.g., no fixed power supply wiring for commonly wiring between fundamental cells or basic units in a metal wiring layer most adjacent to a pattern layer. Accordingly, claims 1-11, 19 and 20, as amended through claims 1 and 8, are allowable over **APA** and **Fudanuki**, either individually or in combination. New claim 23 is also allowable for the above-discussed reasons.

In view of the above remarks, the Applicant respectfully submits that each of claims 1-11, 19-21 and 23 recites subject matter which is neither disclosed nor suggested in the cited prior art. Applicant therefore requests that each of claims 1-11, 19-21 and 23 be found allowable, and this application passed to issue.

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the Applicant's undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper is not timely filed, the Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account No. 01-2300.

Respectfully submitted,



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